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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Minister of Interior Order 39/61 on New Border Restrictions

DATE DISTR. 2 NOV 1961

NO. PAGES 1

REFERENCES RD

DATE OF INFO. 50X1-HUM

PLACE & DATE ACQ. 50X1-HUM

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English translation of the East German Minister of Interior's order 39/61 concerning new security measures introduced in the restricted area at the Western border of East Germany.

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GOVERNMENT
OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
- Ministry of Interior -

CONFIDENTIAL No. 000464

ORDER
of the Minister of Interior
No. 39/61

14 September 1961 Berlin

Contents: Guarantee of Security in the Restricted Area at the Western Border of the German Democratic Republic

For the purpose of guaranteeing the security of the Western Border of the German Democratic Republic

I ORDER:

I.

Determining and Marking the Restricted Area

1. In consideration of the actual conditions, the course of the 500-Meter Security Strip and the 5-km Restricted Zone along the western border of the German Democratic Republic must be more precisely marked. For this purpose, in the districts along the State Boundary West, conferences are to be held under the responsibility of the commander of the individual Border Brigades concerned, with the chief of the BDVP (possibly: District Commander of the German People's Police), the chief of the [illegible] District Administration together in consultation with the Deputy of Internal Affairs of the District Council President, to generally establish what experiences must be taken into consideration in precisely marking the course of the borders of the above mentioned areas.

2. On the basis of those establishments, in the border counties the precise course of the Security Strip of a depth of 500 meters, and the course of the Restricted Zone, up to a depth of 5 to 6 km, are to be exactly marked under the responsibility of the concerned commander of the Border Regiment, in cooperation with the chief of the People's Police County Office, the chief of the MfS County Office and in consultation with the Deputy for Internal Affairs of the County Council President.

3. The precise course of the previously mentioned areas is to be entered on topographical maps, scale 1 : 50,000.

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The commander of the German Border Police must submit these documents to the Minister for National Defense, for confirmation. After this confirmation, any change concerning the course of the Restricted Area borders is prohibited. Exceptions require specific approval of the Minister for National Defense.

4. The course of the confirmed borders of the individual areas must visibly be marked by the German Border Police.

II.

10-Meter Control Strip

1. The commander of the German Border Police must guarantee that the 10-meter control strip is uninterruptedly kept in perfect condition.

2. Roads and ways crossing the 10-meter control strip, or running alongside the 10-meter control strip, must be blocked for any regular traffic, be ploughed up and made impassable by means of engineers' blocks.

   Engineers' blocks must be erected in such a way that it is impossible to drive around them.

3. In order to guarantee vision possibilities by the assigned border guards, the terrain immediately along the 10-meter control strip must be cleared of brush. Thick undergrowth must be thinned out.

4. The Deputies for Interna l Affairs of the County Councils' Presidents must assure that there is no cultivation of high-growing plants or fodder alongside the 10-meter control strip, at a depth of approximately 100 meters.

5. All type of work in the immediate proximity of the 10-meter control strip may be performed by the German commander concerned, [illegible] until one hour after sun rise until one hour after sun set. Approval will only be given if the security of the border is neither impeded nor rendered difficult and the sections in which work is performed can be continuously kept under control. Accompanying traction aids, all types of vehicles and work implements may only be permitted to the extent necessary for the work to be carried out. The German Border Police guards are obliged to thoroughly control the accompanying vehicles.

III.

Measures at the Restricted Area

1. Citizens of the German Democratic Republic who permanently live in the 5-km Restricted Zone and the 500-Meter Security Strip, must be registered with the German People's Police local offices concerned and have an entry on their personal identity card authorizing them to stay in the 5-km Restricted Zone.

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2. Citizens of the German Democratic Republic who must permanently live in the 500-Meter Security Strip, must further be registered with the German Border Police unit concerned and have an entry on their personal identity card authorizing them to stay in the 500-Meter Security Strip.

3. a. The chief of the People's Police County Office concerned with the place of employment, in cooperation with the commander of the border regiment, will decide on the requests submitted by persons who live outside the Restricted Area and carry out an occupation in the 5-km Restricted Zone. Registration will be effected by the People's Police.

   b. A decision on requests made by citizens living outside the Restricted Area or the 5-km Restricted Zone, having their place of employment in the 500-Meter Security Strip, will be made by the commander of the German Border Police unit concerned.

4. Citizens of the German Democratic Republic who live within the 5-km Restricted Zone and wish to temporarily enter the 500-Meter Security Strip for occupational or personal reasons, must hold a pass which must be applied for at the German Border Police unit concerned.

   Within the 500-Meter Security Strip only such roads may be used as are marked by the German Border Police.

5. Registration entries which were previously issued without an expiration date, will become invalid as of 30 September 1961, 2400 hours.

   All citizens are required to newly register by that date.

   The new registration entries will be valid for a period up to three months, and must be renewed prior to expiration.

6. Permits (registration entries) for residence within the 500-Meter Security Strip will be issued by the chiefs of the border companies; the permits for residence within the 5-km Restricted Zone, by the chief of the People's Police County Office concerned, to only such persons who as a result of their previous behavior, guarantee that the security in the Restricted Area is not endangered.

7. The permit will be issued in the form of a registration stamp on pages 14 to 20 of the personal identity card. A detailed record on the registration entries issued, is to be kept by the inhabitants' registration card indexes by impression of the registration stamp.

   Record cards concerning the registered persons, are to be established by the border companies, in order to be currently informed as to the composition of the border populace.

8. The registration entries for residence within the 5-km Restricted Zone or the 500-Meter Security Strip, are to be restricted to the location within a residential county.

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In specific cases the area of validity may also be extended to the adjoining neighbor county.

9. The authorization becomes invalid, when the holder moves out of the Restricted Area.

On the occasion of registration of departure, the People's Police Inhabitants' Registration offices in such cases will effect cancellation of the registration entries of the German People's Police and the German Border Police. Should a resident of the 500-Meter Security Strip be concerned, the border company concerned must be informed for the purpose of effecting correction of its record cards.

10. Police registration of arrivals and departures of GDR citizens in the Restricted Area will be effected by the Inhabitants' Registration offices only if a permanent residence permit of the Council of the Border County concerned is produced. Issuance of permanent residence permits requires the approval of the chief of the People's Police County Office and the commander of the Border Regiment. An opinion of the People's Police County Office concerned with the applicant's residence, is to be requested.

11. Permanent residence permits are basically not issued to returnees and persons from Western Germany and West Berlin, to foreigners and stateless persons, to persons who have seriously or repeatedly been previously convicted, as well as to such persons as were resettled from the Restricted Area along the State Boundary West or for other reasons, or persons justifying the assumption that their stay in the Restricted Area will endanger the security (as for instance former SS-members, incorrigible Nazis, former local peasants' leaders etc.).

12. In issuing passes to persons living in the 5-km Restricted Zone, who wish to enter the 500-Meter Security Strip, the company commanders of the German Border Police will apply strict rules. The requests will only be approved if they are justified by urgent reasons of political economy or special family reasons (death, serious illnesses of next-of-kin) and if persons mentioned under 11. above are not concerned.

Other Security Measures

13. The German Border Police will block and make impassable all roads leading to the 500-Meter Security Strip, with the exception of such roads as are necessary for the supply and communication of the populace in the 500-Meter Security Strip. These roads will be provided with movable barriers. At these barriers traffic within the 500-Meter Security Strip will be controlled by the commitment of German Border Police members and Border Police aids.

Within the 500-Meter Security Strip, the roads and streets are to be temporarily blocked [illegible] that traffic is solely restricted to the performance of field work and

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other type of work of importance to political economy.

The same system of blocking measures will be maintained at the entries to the 5-km Restricted Zone.

The traffic control at the [illegible] to be ensured by the commitment of People's Police [illegible], People's Police aids and the temporary commitment of [illegible], by the commanders of the German Border Police. The commander of the Border Regiment will organize the cooperation of this control personnel, with the patrols of the German Border Police, operating within the entire Restricted Area.

14. Controls by members of the German Border Police and the ABV (Abschnittsbevollmaechtigter - section representative) assigned to these sections, are to determine and secure that no-one will be on the roads, the traffic of all types of transportation vehicles, and outdoor work [illegible] be permitted during certain hours of the day, be strictly observed. Upon request, the commanders of the border battalions can approve of exceptions, for the purpose of aiding work of importance to political economy. In such cases, the border companies must be provided with additional orders to guarantee the security in the sections concerned.

15. The commanders of the German Border Police and the chiefs of the BDVP or the chiefs of the People's Police County Offices are not permitted to approve of [illegible] hunting within the 500-Meter Security Strip.

In case of extraordinary [illegible], the commander of the individual border brigade [illegible] hunting within the 5-km Restricted Zone. In issuing the [illegible] the responsible hunt leaders are to be instructed that previous to a hunt, they are to report to the office of the German Border Police located at the hunt area. The commanders of the German Border Police must brief participants of hunts as to their conduct.

16. The commanders of the German Border Police and the administration chiefs of the German People's Police are prohibited in giving permission to store any type of [illegible] and sports weapons, as well as [illegible] in the 5-km Restricted Zone and the 500-Meter Security Strip.

In exceptional cases, the storage of hunting and sports weapons, as well as ammunition, explosives and blasting agents in the 5-km Restricted Zone can be permitted by the commander of the border brigade concerned, in agreement with the chief of the BDVP, provided sufficient safety of the depots is secured, for instance storage at People's Police agencies, at VEB/BS (Socialized Enterprise/BS).

Poisonous plant protection [illegible] can only be stored in the 5-km Restricted Zone if the State organs concerned install the depots in accordance with the increased security requirements.

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At the same time it must be assured that poisonous plant protectives and pest control aids are not stored in the 500-Meter Security Strip.

17. In consideration of the increased security requirements, mass demonstrations and events of a supra-local character to be held within the [illegible] zone, must be approved by the chief of the [illegible], in agreement with the commander of the border brigade concerned.

Such events are not permitted to be held at places within the 500-Meter Security Strip. With consideration of the established curfew hours, the chief of the People's Police County Office in agreement with the commander of the Border Police Battalion, can permit locally limited events, meetings etc.

18. Films, photographic and television pictures may be taken in the 500-Meter security strip only with the approval of the Press Office of the Ministry.

19. The Deputies for Internal Affairs of the County and District Councils' Presidents must assure that cattle kept outdoors within the 500-Meter Security Strip, is held only within enclosures of solid fencing, at a distance of at least 100 meters off the border.

20. The keeping of sports [illegible] is not permitted within the 500-Meter Security Strip.

21. Persons living within the [illegible] zone are only permitted to drive motor [illegible], if the motor-vehicle license is provided with a [illegible] registration stamp issued by the People's Police County Office concerned. A [illegible] note is to be made in the files of the VP Department (possibly: Motor Transport Section).

22. The commander of the Border Regiment must submit a list to the County Council of those mines in the immediate proximity of the border, which must be removed. The demolition work will be secured by the German Border Police.

The Deputies for Internal Affairs of the County Council President, must [illegible] on a [illegible] of the commanders of the border regiments for the demolition work to be accomplished, and to assure that the objects be removed by the end of 1961.

23. Building constructional changes and changes in the terrain which may jeopardize border security, must not be permitted.

24. Utilization of border waters and the execution of technical work at the waters, is only permitted with the approval of the commander of the border brigade concerned. The carrying through of such measures will be prohibited if thereby the waterways (Wasserregime) concerned, are changed.

25. Effective 30 September 1961, all previously issued border fishing permits will be invalid.

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New border fishing permits can be issued by the District Councils only in agreement with the commander of the border brigade concerned.

26. Public bathing establishments located on border waters must be closed down upon orders of the Deputy for Internal Affairs of the County Council President. Use of boats for sports purposes is prohibited.

27. Adaptation homes for returnees and newcomers in the border districts must be closed down and be transferred to the rear areas.

IV.

Regulations Concerning the Entry to the Restricted Area

A. Entry for the Purpose of Permanent Occupation

1. Persons who must daily enter the Restricted Area in order to reach their place of employment, require special approval.

Previously issued registration entries on the personal identity card for occupation in the Restricted Area, are invalid after 2400 hours on 30 September 1961.

Effective 1 October 1961, at 0001 hours, entry to the Restricted Area for the purpose of permanently carrying out an occupation, will only be permitted [illegible] registration entry on the personal identity card [illegible] up to three months.

2. The People's Police County Office will inform the enterprises in the Restricted Area [illegible] about a registration entry for their employees living outside the 500-Meter Security Strip, or the 5-km Restricted Area.

3. The chief of the People's Police County Office concerned with the place of employment, in cooperation with the commander of the Border Regiment, will decide on the requests.

4. The registration entry will be denied if it can be assumed that the person concerned will endanger order and security within the Restricted Area. This will particularly apply to the following group of persons:

- persons who were resettled from the Restricted Area;
- persons from Western Germany and West Berlin;
- returnees displaying a hostile attitude;
- foreigners and stateless persons;
- criminals, hooligans and unsocial elements;
- persons previously convicted on charges of prejudicing our State;
- persons displaying a negative attitude towards our Workers' and Peasants' State.

5. In making a decision on such requests for carrying out an occupation within the 500-Meter Security Strip, a specifically strict standard must be applied, especially in case of

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- juveniles below 25 years,
- persons whose next-of-kin illegally left the GDR.

6. The chiefs of the People's Police County Offices must pass on complete lists to the commanders of the border regiments concerned of persons who received a registration entry for permanently changing out an occupation. The border companies will keep record cards on these persons with all information required for an opinion on the person concerned.

7. The registration entry [illegible] of discontinuance of employment and will [illegible] the People's Police. The chiefs of enterprises are obligated by the Deputies for Internal Affairs of the County Council, to immediately notify the People's Police of the discontinuance of an employment.

Should the person concerned not have the registration entry cancelled within a period of three days, he is to be summoned by the police. Should in this case employment within the 500-Meter Security Strip be concerned, the Border Regiment concerned must be informed of the cancellation.

B. Entry for the Purpose of Consulting Political, Economic or [illegible]

1. Effective 1 October 1961, at 0001 hours, only passes issued after 25 Aug 1961 (at the [illegible] after 25 Aug 1961) authorizing [illegible], will be valid for travel to the [illegible].

2. The People's Police County Offices will inform the State organs, enterprises, supply authorities etc. who are known to send representatives to the Restricted Area, as to these measures. They are to be informed as to the application of rigid standards when requesting authorization for those persons who must continue repeatedly travelling to the Restricted Area and to state detailed reasons for the necessity of travel, in writing.

3. The decision on these requests, as well as on requests for a single entry, will be made by the chief of the People's Police County Office concerned. In making the decision, consideration will be given to the principles listed in Section A, Items 4 and 5.

4. Issuance of passes for single and repeated entries/exits for the Restricted Area, must be limited to absolute necessity.

C. Entry for Personal Reasons

1. Entry to the Restricted Area is basically only permitted with a pass.

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2. The passes are to be requested in writing by the citizen at the People's Police County Office concerned with his place of residence. Documents stating detailed reasons for the necessity of travel to the Restricted Area, must be enclosed with the request.

3. The application for the pass will be checked by the People's Police County Office at the place of residence on the grounds of the applicable documents. Should there be no objections to the issuance of the pass after elimination of the reasons for the objections, it must be ascertained by telephone inquiry by the People's Police County Office to [illegible] whether they have objections.

The People's Police County Office concerned with the place of visit, must check whether there are objections to the person who is to be visited, whether the reasons for the entry are correct, or whether there are other reasons which do not permit entry.

The reply is to be immediately sent by teletype message to the People's Police County Office in whose area the applicant lives.

4. The chief of the People's Police Office concerned will make the decision on the requests. In making the decision it must be considered that entry for personal reasons, particularly to [illegible], must be considerably facilitated.

Requests submitted by persons as listed in Section A, Item 4, will be rejected.

Further the following will be rejected:

- entry of [illegible], as well as West German and West Berlin citizens who visit the GDR;
- entry for the purpose of spending [illegible] vacation arranged privately, by private invitations, local health resort [illegible];
- special trips, [illegible] etc.;
- entry of persons holding [illegible] which is not entry [illegible] whose request is limited in [illegible] of 24 August 1961.

5. In applying strict standards, passes may be issued if the restrictions listed under Item 4. above, do not apply and the following persons are given:

a. for the 5-km [illegible]

- for the purpose of a sojourn at sanatoriums and convalescence homes to which the FDGB or the SED recommend has right;
(Prior to issuance of the corresponding document, it must be checked whether a pass will be issued.)

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- for the purpose of visiting spouses, parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren and brothers and sisters.

b. for the 500-Meter Security Strip

- in case of special family reasons, such as death, serious illnesses and important family festivities of close relatives as listed under item a. above.

6. Entry to the 5-km Restricted Zone by means of motor-vehicle, for personal reasons, will only be permitted in exceptional cases and not at all to the 500-Meter Security Strip.

D. Exemption of Obligation of Holding a Pass

The following persons are exempted from the obligation of holding a pass for entry to the 5-km Restricted Zone and the 500-Meter Security Strip:

- persons who can identify themselves by the People's Chamber deputy identification, as well as deputies of the district and county councils in their individual areas of competency;
- Central Committee co-workers when identifying themselves with the official party identification;
- co-workers of the SED district and county managements, in their individual areas of competency when identifying themselves with the official party identification;
- members of the GDR armed organs when holding pertinent official orders or an entry of approval in the service pass;
- persons holding a special pass "Freie Fahrt" I (Unrestricted Entry) signed by the Minister of Interior;
- members of the armed organs holding a furlough certificate stating

  "Briefing as to obligation of registration and conduct in the Restricted Area has been effected."

- members of the Ministry of Interior, the MfS, the National People's Army, and the ABV (Agency for Customs and Control of Goods Traffic), as well as co-workers of the Central Committee, the SED district and county managements and their family members who possess an assignment document for sanatoriums and convalescent homes of these organs.

E. General Regulations

1. Examination of Applications

Requests for registration entries for travel to Restricted Areas for occupational reasons and for passes to enter for political, economic, cultural, as well as for personal reasons, must be examined on the grounds of documents held by Departments PM and K, and in consultation of the ABV concerned with the applicant's residence or place of employment.

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[illegible] restrictions are to be [illegible] through the GDR especially [illegible] there may be suspicion of illegally leaving the GDR or endangering the security of the Restricted Area.

2. Documents Required

In approving repeated entry/exit trips for the purpose of permanent performance of occupational tasks, a registration entry is to be made on the personal identity card.

When granting exceptional permission for travel by motor-vehicle, a special entry in the registration stamp is required. For single and repeated trips for the purpose of completing political, economic or cultural tasks, as well as for single travel for personal reasons, Form PM 107 will be issued as pass for the 500-Meter Security Strip, and Form PM 108 as pass for the 5-km Restricted Zone.

On the pass for repeated entries/exits the following must be noted:

"Valid for repeated entries/exits."

If motor-vehicles are to be used for travel, this is to be noted on the pass.

3. Limitation and Area of Validity of Registration Entries and Passes

The registration entry will be issued with a maximum validity of three months and will only authorize the stay at the place of employment.

The pass for repeated entries/exits is to be limited to a maximum of three months. The place of employment is to be entered on the pass thus restricting validity locally. In case of supply trips and similar, should travel to several communities be required, these must be listed on the pass. If in exceptional cases, local restriction cannot be entered due to the type of activities to be carried out, entry should specifically state that the pass is valid for the entire county of the 5-km Restricted Zone or the 500-Meter Security Strip.

Passes for single entry and exit will be issued for a maximum period of 30 days, and only authorize a stay within the community named on the pass.

4. Records

Detailed record is to be kept as to the issued registration stamps by making a note on the inhabitants' registration card (stamp) and with regard to passes by filing Part 2. A note regarding the issuance of the registration stamp or the issuance of the pass, is to be made on the record card of the County Inhabitants' Registration card index.

The return of passes must be controlled.

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5. Registration of Arrival and Departure, on Occasion of Sojourns in the Restricted Area

At the issuance of passes it should be pointed out to the persons concerned that

a. in case of a stay in the 5-km Restricted Zone for over 12 hours, they must register with the People's Police registration office, and again register prior to their departure;

b. immediately upon entry to the 500-Meter Security Strip, they also must register with the German Border Police company concerned, and also notify this service immediately prior to their departure.

The Inhabitants' Registration offices must immediately inform the ABV concerned of the names of persons who have entered by pass.

6. The decision on requests for passes for repeated entries/exits for several counties of a district in the Restricted Area, will be made by the chief of the Department PM of the BDVP and for several districts of the Restricted Area by the chief of the Main Department PM. Prior to issuance of such a pass, an inquiry is to be made with the People's Police County Office concerned with the applicant's residence, and if necessary, also with the People's Police County Offices of the border counties concerned.

V.

Special Regulations

1. When in precisely determining the borders of the Restricted Area, certain communities or parts of towns remain outside the Restricted Area, although they are connected with the Restricted Area in a political, economic and cultural respect, on the basis of local agreements, the residents of the communities remaining outside, can be issued registration entries with a special text.

The text must state which communities in the Restricted Area may be entered.

2. This type of special regulations requires approval of the district operational office concerned.

VI.

Final Instructions

All previous instructions contrary to this order, are hereby cancelled.

Minister of Interior sgd. Maron

Certified Correct:
sgd. Lohse
(LOHSE)
Colonel of the People's Police

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